

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5169

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NPG - PARTICIPATION BY PORTUGAL

REF: NDAC/D(69)4

BEGIN SUMMARY: NPG STAFF GROUP CHAIRMAN (SEIM) INFORMED MISSION ON 24 OCTOBER THAT PORTUGAL HAS DECIDED TO BECOME ACTIVE IN THE NPG. UNDER MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS AGREED BY THE NUCLEAR DEFENSE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (NDAC) IN 1969, PORTUGAL WOULD NOT ATTEND A NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING UNTIL FALL 1974. HOWEVER, PORTUGAL INTENDS TO BECOME ACTIVE AT STAFF GROUP AND PERM REP LEVEL RIGHT AWAY. END SUMMARY.

1. NPG STAFF GROUP CHAIRMAN (SEIM) CALLED MISSION ON 24 OCTOBER TO SAY THAT A MEMBER OF THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION HAS INFORMED HIM THAT HIS AUTHORITIES IN LISBON WANT PORTUGAL TO BECOME ACTIVE IN THE NPG. HE SAID THAT THE PORTUGUESE PERM REP WILL WRITE SYG LUNS IN THE NEAR FUTURE INFORMING HIM OF THIS DECISION. SEIM SAID HE REMINDED PORTUGUESE REP THAT NDAC MINISTERS DECIDED AT THEIR MEETING IN DECEMBER 1969 (REF., PARA. 4(C)) THAT IF PORTUGAL ELECTS TO BECOME ACTIVE IN THE NPG IT WOULD BE ADDED TO GROUP II OF THE ALTERNATING MEMBERSHIP, I.E., THE FOUR PERMANENT CONFIDENTIAL

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MEMBERS PLUS BELGIUM, DENMARK AND TURKEY. GROUP II BEGINS ITS NEXT TERM ON THE NPG ON 1 JULY 1974, AND THEREFORE PORTUGAL WOULD NOT ATTEND A NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING UNTIL FALL 1974. SEIM SAID THAT PORTUGUESE REP UNDERSTOOD THIS,

BUT NOTED THAT PORTUGAL WANTS TO BEGIN PARTICIPATION AT STAFF GROUP AND PERM REP LEVEL RIGHT AWAY, AND IN FACT, MAY SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO NEXT STAFF GROUP MEETING ON 29 OCTOBER. HE SAID THAT PORTUGAL IS ADDING A NEW MAN TO ITS DELEGATION AT NATO WHO WILL HANDLE NPG WORK, PROBABLY AMONG OTHER DUTIES.

2. SEIM SAID THAT PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION ON THE NPG MAY HAVE A BEARING ON THE QUESTION OF HOLDING A NDAC MINISTERIAL MEETING IN DECEMBER, SINCE THE ARGUMENT THAT SUCH A MEETING PERMITS INVOLVEMENT BY COUNTRIES NOT ACTIVE IN THE NPG, I.E., PORTUGAL, WOULD NO LONGER APPLY. MISSION OFFICER AGREED, BUT NOTED THAT ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON FOR NDAC MEETING IS TO PERMIT MINISTERIAL INVOLVEMENT BY ROTATING MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY SEATED ON THE NPG. COMMENT: WE SEE NO DIFFICULTY WITH PORTUGUESE DECISION TO BECOME ACTIVE IN NPG, AND INTEND TO JOIN OTHER DELEGATIONS IN WELCOMING THEIR DELEGATE TO NPG STAFF GROUP WHEN HE ARRIVES.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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